

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 MC-02 PM-07 OMB-01 AID-20

IGA-02 TRSE-00 L-03 XMB-07 DRC-01 /086 W

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R 280821Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8984

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN JA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: JAPANESE PURCHASES OF U.S. AIRCRAFT

1. RECENT NEWS REPORTS INDICATED MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT) HAD ASKED JAPANESE AIRLINES TO RECONSIDER THEIR PLANS FOR BUYING US-MADE AIRCRAFT. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH YAMAMOTO, DIRECTOR, SUPERVISION DIVISION, JCAB, WHO CLARIFIED MOT POSITION AS FOLLOWS: MINISTRY DOES NOT EXPECT AIRLINES TO ALTER LONG-RANGE PURCHASE PLANS; WHAT MOT SUGGESTED WAS THAT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ALREADY PLANNED FOR PURCHASE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS, COMPANIES FIRM UP THEIR DECISIONS CONCERNING ACTUAL ORDERS TO BE PLACED IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT TO BE RETAINED UNDER OP *ON.* MOT RECOMMENDED FOLLOWING PLAN FOR INDIVIDUAL AIRLINES: (A):JAPAN AIRLINES: PLACE FIRM ORDERS FOR FOUR B-747LR'S, RETAIN OPTIONS TO PURCHASE THREE OTHERS. MOT ALSO BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR JAL TO ACQUIRE TWO B-747SR'S FOR USE ON DOMESTIC TRUNK LINES. (B) ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA): PLA*E FIRM*ORDERS FOR FOUR L-1011'S, RETAIN OPTIONS ON FOUR OTHERS. (C) TOA DOMESTIC AIRLINE (TDA): PLACE FIRM ORDERS FOR THREE DC-9'S, RETAIN OPTIONS ON THREE OTHERS.

2. YAMAMOTO SAID BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL
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AS FUEL CRISIS INFLUENCED MOT RECOMMENDATIONS TO AIRLINES.

WITH RESPECT TO BOP CONSIDERATIONS, YAMAMOTO EXPLAINED THAT
WHILE JAPAN EX-IM BANK WOULD PROVIDE FINANCING FOR AIRCRAFT
TO BE ORDERED IMMEDIATELY, GOJ IS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT
MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO SEEK US EX-IM BANK FINANCING FOR FUTURE
PURCHASES IN VIEW OF DECLINING JAPANESE FOREIGN EXCHANGE
RESERVES.
SHOESMITH

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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